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|  |  Our Ref: FOI/106632 | January 2017  |

You asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

***How many residents were handed a jail sentence by a Bedfordshire court in the last twelve months?***

***How many suspended sentences did each jailed individual receive before they received a jail sentence? This question refers to suspended sentences individuals received throughout their lives, not just in the last twelve months?***

***Please separate the data according to which individuals were sentenced in a Crown Court and which individuals were sentenced by a Magistrates Court. Please also indicate which criminals listed a Bedfordshire address. Please show the gender of each individual?***

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the department holds the information requested and it is provided in the table at the end of this letter.

Please note all offenders sentenced to immediate custody by a Bedfordshire court were all sentenced in a Magistrate court. In addition, the number of previous suspended sentences relates to the number of occasions[[1]](#footnote-1) which offenders have previously received a suspended sentence.

Adults who are given a community or suspended sentence have a lower re-offending rate than those who serve less than 12 months.

The figures provided have been drawn from an extract of the PNC data held by the MoJ. The PNC holds details of all convictions and cautions given for recordable offences and include a number of offences where it is not possible for offenders to be given a custodial sentence. As with any large scale recording system the PNC is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing so data provided may be subject to revision. Also to be aware there are known reliability issues with residential address or postcodes of offenders.

**Annex A**

1. *Based on counting the number of separate sentencing occasions on which offenders have previously received a suspended sentence for any offence recorded on the Police National Computer, including some offences committed outside of England and Wales. This mean an offender will appear more than once in the total or across the two different court groups and will not match (equal) the number of individual offenders.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)